

REMARKS

Claims 3-6 and 9-14 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

a. In Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Cook (U.S. Pat. No. 3,429,717).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner appears to consider that the polyolefin described in Cook reads on the porous sheet in the presently claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the “polymers of alpha olefins” described in Cook are not a porous material. Cook is silent about the porous material and the production method thereof. See, e.g., col. 2, lines 7-26 of Cook.

The Examiner might misunderstand that the term “porous” is synonymous with the phrase “gas permeable.” However, Applicants wish to point out that even a non-porous polyolefin film has some gas permeability, although the permeation amount of gas is different. On the other hand, the porous sheet in the presently claimed invention can be produced by the method as described on page 6, lines 10-20 of the present specification, and has an average pore size of generally 100 μm or smaller, as described on page 7, lines 5-8.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

b. In Paragraph No. 6 of the Office Action, claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Farrell et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,536,409).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner's position is that Farrell et al describes "at least polymer protective layer per the porous layer" (col. 10, claim 9). However, Farrell et al neither describes nor suggests at all that the "at least one polymer protective layer" is porous. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

II. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In Paragraph No. 8 of the Office Action, claims 3, 9, 11, 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cook in view of Biebuyck et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,734,225). Further, in Paragraph No. 9 of the Office Action, claims 3, 9, 11, 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Farrell et al in view of Biebuyck et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Biebuyck et al describes that the EL device can be protected from oxidation by sealing the EL device. However, Biebuyck et al is silent about the porous sheet. Further, as set forth above, neither Cook nor Farrell et al disclose a porous sheet. Therefore, even if there might be motivation to combine Cook or Farrell et al with Biebuyck et al, the combination still would not result in the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

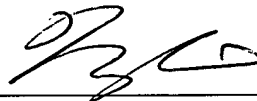
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/809,273

Attorney Docket Q63124

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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